

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-51

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION
OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK,
FLORIDA, URGING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO CREATE AND
IMPLEMENT A LONG-TERM STABLE FUNDING
PLAN THAT WILL RESTORE FULL FUNDING TO
THE ENTIRE MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SYSTEM, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, Libraries are central to our free society because at the heart of our democracy is free access to information for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, or economic status. Libraries represent an individual's right to acquire knowledge, explore and achieve. A healthy library system promotes literacy and cultural appreciation and fosters a more knowledgeable and educated society; and

WHEREAS, revenues to Miami-Dade County libraries have been reduced by more than half in the last four years causing reduced operating hours, layoffs, a reduction in new titles, and fewer programs for children and the community; the result: 5.5 million fewer visits to our libraries since budget cuts began and a resulting loss of services to residents, and

WHEREAS, trained librarians are central to a 21st century library system because they are skilled research assistants and educators who teach patrons how to best access this important resource that includes books, archives and the Web. They level the playing field for every patron who needs access to information and the valuable services provided by libraries, and

WHEREAS, the Village Commission is aware of the current funding crisis faced by the Public Library System, but it is encouraged and optimistic by an improved economy and the prospects for a return to a stabilized and strong economy thereby allowing for the restoration of full funding for the Public Library System; and

WHEREAS, the Miami-Dade Public Library System is comprised of forty-nine branches which services over 2.5 million residents as well as approximately 8 million visitors throughout Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, with the reduction of funding to the Miami-Dade Public Library System and the closures, down-sizing or reconfigurations of the Public Library System many children, teens and adults within all the Miami-Dade County municipalities have been turned away from a place of learning as exemplified in the local South Miami Branch; and

WHEREAS, since a recent survey by the Task Force has shown that a significant number of Miami-Dade County residents support the library system and are willing to support a better level of service in the Public Library System, the City Commission believes that a sustainable financial plan with the restoration of full funding for the Miami-Dade County Public Library System is in the best interest of all the residents of the City and County.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE
2 COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAIYNE PARK, FLORIDA, THAT:
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4 **Section 1.** The Mayor and Village Commission of the Village of Biscayne Park
5 hereby urges the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners to provide
6 funding for the Public Library System for FY 2014-15, at a minimum, be maintained at the level
7 of funding for the current FY 2013-14; continue to provide the current level of service without
8 reductions in staff, and implement a stable long term funding plan to restore full funding to the
9 entire Miami-Dade Public Library System.
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11 **Section 2.** The Village Clerk is hereby instructed to transmit this resolution to the
12 Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners and to the municipalities
13 within Miami-Dade County.
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15 **Section 3.** If any section clause, sentence, or phrase of this resolution is for any
16 reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the holding shall not
17 affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.
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19 **Section 4.** This resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.
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22 PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of September, 2014.
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The foregoing resolution upon being
put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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30 David Coviello, Mayor
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Mayor Coviello: Yes
Vice Mayor Ross: Yes
Commissioner Anderson: Yes
Commissioner Jonas: Yes
Commissioner Watts: Yes
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35 Attest:

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39 Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk
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42 Approved as to form:
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46 John J. Hearn, Village Attorney